

The Children's Newspaper, Week Ending February 21, 1959

PICTURES OF AUCKLAND—See page 6

Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Fourpence

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

No. 2083, February 21, 1959.

ALL READY TO TRY AGAIN

The big-hearted crew of Small World are undaunted

There was a happy sequel to a great adventure the other evening, when the crew of the transatlantic balloon, *Small World*, met newspaper men and answered their questions. The meeting took place aboard the good ship *Wellington*, headquarters of the Honourable Company of Master Mariners, moored off the Thames Embankment in Westminster. And Mr. A. B. Eiloart, leader of the now world-famous flight, drew cheers from his audience when he announced that he and his gallant crew were ready to make another attempt to cross the Atlantic in a balloon.

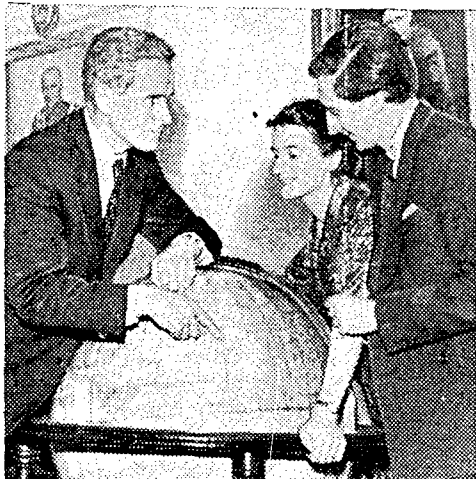
SMALL WORLD, the black and silver balloon in which four people—Mr. Eiloart and his son Tim, with their friends Mr. and Mrs. Mudie—tried to drift with the wind across the Atlantic, is now no more. Only the gondola survived. But this brave quartette are undaunted by their hard and perilous adventure and mean to have another go.

Having left the island of Tenerife, largest of the Canary Islands, on December 12, *Small World* was airborne only for a few days before being driven down to the sea by violent storms. The big envelope, 46 feet high, was cut adrift and the crew proceeded to complete their 3000-mile voyage in their gondola, built like a boat. Although their transmitter was working well they had been forced to jettison it to save weight.

Silence and loneliness wrapped them round for three weeks while the strange little craft crept along under sail. Then, on January 6, they sighted the exact spot they had been steering for, the south-east coast of Barbados. It was a fine feat of navigation, but Mr. Mudie had already sailed a small yacht across the Atlantic.

To some people, the whole idea of ballooning across a vast ocean, trusting to prevailing (but capricious) winds seemed hair-brained enough. "Mad!" they said. "Ballooning!" and so on.

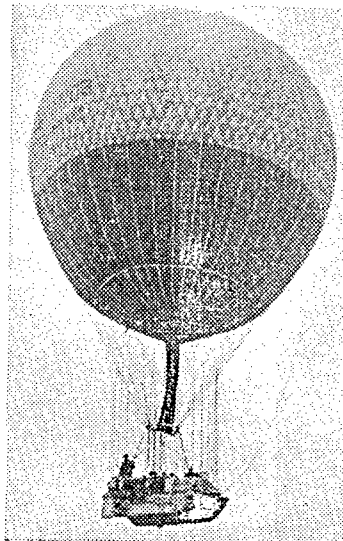
But a talk with the crew of *Small World* gives no such impression. It was a brave venture



Arnold Eiloart (left) and Rosemary and Colin Mudie on board the *Wellington*

—and well-planned. In fact, the bad luck which dogged them from the start and the near-disaster which ensued, only served to test their equipment to meet danger. They took risks—yes. But they also provided against them.

The boat-like gondola, built in London to the design of Mr. Colin Mudie, was found to be still in



The *Small World*

excellent shape when she was towed through the reef to that silver-sanded Barbados beach.

The great problem of ballooning, the sudden rises and equally sudden sinkings as temperature changes are encountered, was met to some extent by lowering a special waterproof bag to collect seawater as ballast. In the ordinary way ballast (usually sand) once thrown out has gone for ever. Yet the balloon may need more ballast to prevent it rising too high.

In *Small World* height could also be adjusted by means of light propellers worked by pedals. Weather conditions, however, proved too violent even with these extra and novel precautions, and the balloon came down on the ocean about 1450 miles from its objective.

But they mean to try again.

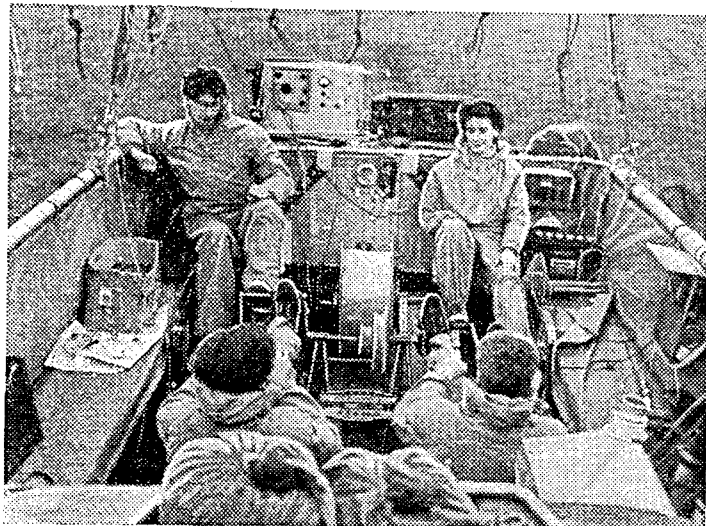
"A Spaniard is also trying," said Mr. Eiloart. "If he beats us he beats us—and good luck to him."

But *Small World*'s big-hearted crew are still in the running.

600 Miles in Icy Waters

One swimmer who likes cold water, and the colder the better, is Canadian frogman Louis Lourmais. He recently swam some 600 miles in 17 days down the nearly-freezing Fraser River in British Columbia. It was tough going, and at one point he was flung against rocks and ice and had most of his equipment smashed.

But his purpose was not to display his powers of endurance. He wanted to prove that frogmen can render great service to British Columbia by helping to tap the mineral wealth, especially gold, which is thought to lie in the river beds. He intends to make a survey of the cold, fast waters of the province.



The crew in the gondola of light plastic designed as a boat

Money in the Bank

Two little New Zealanders started a junior gold rush in a public park at Dunedin the other day. While throwing stones at a matchbox floating in a creek they noticed a bottle projecting from a bank where the soil had been washed away.

"That bottle's full of ha'pennies!" exclaimed one of the boys; but on close inspection they found it to be full of gold coins.

Being honest lads, they took the bottle to the police station, and there it was found that the coins

were sovereigns and half-sovereigns—no fewer than 60 of them and now worth nearly £120.

The bottle had evidently been in the ground for many years, and the police said that if no owner could be traced the lads would probably be allowed to keep the money.

The news of the find soon spread round the neighbourhood, and as a result an eager crowd of boys and girls rushed to the park. Alas, no more golden bottles were to be found!

Britain's flower prize

Britain's flower-growers were awarded first prize in the International Class at the Delhi Flower Show recently. Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, the Indian High Commissioner in London, presented a replica of the President's Challenge Cup to Sir James Turner, President of the National Farmers' Union, who accepted it on behalf of British flower-growers.

This annual Flower Show is organised by the Y.M.C.A. in Delhi and Britain has now won the international class for three years running.

HELPING THE SCHOLARS

During the ten years since its foundation, the Fulbright Commission has arranged for 3100 American students, lecturers, and research scholars to come to Britain, and for over 3400 British citizens to study in the United States.

ROCKETS VERSUS FOREST FIRES

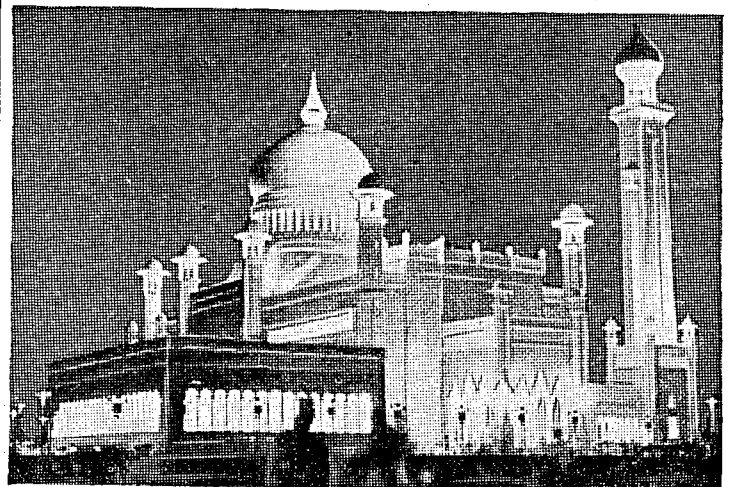
Rockets fired from hovering helicopters are the latest weapons to be used in the United States to fight forest fires. Once released, the missiles are controlled by infra-red homing devices which automatically lead them to the area of greatest heat. The explosion blasts and destroys the very heart of fires.

Shortly, it is hoped that this new technique can be used to stop fires in industrial plants, oil refineries, and chemical factories.

During 1958 helicopters in the United States flew almost 2500 hours in fire-fighting and forestry patrol missions. Well over 11,000 helicopter bases have been created in national forests within California alone.

The essential factor in fire-fighting is speed. If the Forest Service learns about a fire within a few minutes of it breaking out, a crew can be dispatched by helicopter to bring it quickly under control.

FLOODLIGHTING IN BORNEO



A beautiful new mosque has been built in Brunei, North Borneo. Named after the Sultan, Omar Ali Saifuddin, it has been built at a cost of several million pounds on land reclaimed from the river, and is surrounded by an artificial lagoon so that it "shall always be mirrored by calm waters."

The mosque has been installed by the General Electric Company, and is described as being on the grandest scale in all south-east Asia. As can be judged from our picture, the new mosque is a breathtaking sight at night, when its golden dome and minarets and colonnades are floodlit.

The lighting of the whole

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BIG BEN WAS YEARS BEHIND TIME

Centenary story of Westminster's famous clock

By the C N Parliamentary Correspondent

"MR. DENT will never make that clock."

Those ominous words were repeated around London just over a century ago. They are said to have fallen from the lips of Mr. Vulliamy, clockmaker to Queen Victoria, and they concerned what has become the most famous clock in the world—the one most people wrongly call "Big Ben," for the name strictly applies only to the great hour bell.

Mr. Vulliamy's remark emphasises a phrase in the Westminster guide-books: "The installation of the clock and bells (in the Clock Tower, more than 300 feet high) was not accomplished without a great deal of controversy."

That controversy is worth recalling now, for the centenary of the

Mr. Vulliamy to prepare plans.

He was in the middle of this work when he was told there would be a competition for the making of the clock. Mr. Vulliamy was said by Professor Airey to have an "unmanageable temper," and when he heard the news he became exceedingly cross.

He objected to Mr. Dent and also to the professor as sole "referee" in the competition. Then he withdrew. The contract went to Mr. Dent for £1500.

Then Mr. Dent nearly walked out because orders for some of the smaller clocks in the Palace were given to Mr. Vulliamy. This dispute was settled on a promise that Mr. Vulliamy would get no further favours.

PLAIN SPEAKING

Now an even bigger row broke out. Mr. Vulliamy is said to have got up an official protest (it was called a memorial) in which Mr. Dent and the barrister, Mr. Denison, were both attacked. Mr. Denison was a plain-speaking man, and some plain words were banded back and forth.

It was during this controversy that Mr. Vulliamy forecast that Mr. Dent would "never make that clock." Unfortunately he was right. Edward Dent died in 1853 while the dispute was still raging. This caused legal difficulties, and by the time these were cleared up it was obvious that the clock would be several years behind time; for it was to have been complete and in position by February 1854 and this did not in fact happen until May 1859.

In the end it was Mr. Dent's stepson Frederick who built the clock.

MORE TROUBLE

Next there was trouble about the construction of the Clock Tower itself. This was followed by a storm about the clock hands. At first they were made of cast-iron, but proved too heavy to be put up. Lighter ones of gun-metal were made, but they were so fixed that they fell over a minute or two every time they passed the vertical.

When this had been put right, uproar broke out about who should cast "Big Ben"—the hour bell—and who should supervise the work. The first bell was cast at Stockton-on-Tees and was taken to London by sea. Ship and bell nearly foundered in a gale.

When it was hung for testing purposes at the foot of the Clock

Continued at foot of column 3

200th birthday of a great iron firm

A Scottish ironfounding firm which gave a new word to our language is now celebrating its 200th anniversary.

It is the firm of Carron Co., started in 1759 as the Carron Iron Works in the village of that name near Falkirk; and the word it added to the language was Carronade, a short-barrelled gun it produced for the Royal Navy during the Napoleonic Wars. Carron also made guns for Nelson's Victory.

From the foundries of this firm, too, came cylinders for the famous steam engine of James Watt. One of these cylinders is built into the stonework at the entrance to the works.

FIRST STEAMSHIP

In 1789 the engines for the first steamship built in the United Kingdom were made at Carron under the direction of John Symington. The works also supplied some of the handsome cast iron grates for fireplaces designed by the famous Adam brothers; and also the black cast-iron door-stops in the shape of dogs so often seen now in antique shops.

The present Carron works today employs about 2000 men and turns out an astonishing list of products—telephone kiosks and gutters, complete equipment for fried fish shops, iron baths, pillar-boxes and kitchen sinks.

Tower it was found the bell had taken up two tons more metal than had been calculated, as a result of which a clapper twice as large had to be made. The bell then promptly cracked!

Another bell was cast at White-chapel. In this, too, a flaw appeared. But this was put right, and at last Big Ben was pulled up to the top of the tower, and there it has remained ever since. It is named after Sir Benjamin Hall, who was then Chief Commissioner of Works, an office equivalent to our modern Minister of Works.

News from Everywhere

The narrow streets of Gibraltar recently became torrents. Eleven-and-a-half inches of rain—nearly a third of the average annual total—fell in 21 hours.

Nearly half the children in the world never go to school, states a United Nations report.

The Royal Standard which flies over Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle when the Queen is in residence is to be floodlit from dusk to midnight.

Dove for adoption



A young visitor to the P.D.S.A. sanatorium at Ilford, Essex, is introduced to a Barbary dove. The bird was waiting for someone to offer it a good home.

The wagon trek made in Southern Rhodesia by the great missionary, Robert Moffat, and three companions a century ago may be re-enacted this year. It is to be part of the celebrations to mark the founding, in 1859, of the London Missionary Society's school at Inyati, near Bulawayo.

OLD WAYS IN NEW GUINEA

A Dutch scientific expedition into the Star Mountains of New Guinea is taking cases of axes, knives, beads, shirts, and shorts to use as payment to the natives. The explorers expect to meet tribesmen who are still in the Stone Age state of development.

Two American airmen landed at Las Vegas after flying continuously for nearly 65 days and beating the previous record by 15 days. Their single-engine plane was refuelled in the air, and they took turns at the controls.

According to the Australian Canned Fruits Board, the British have "the sweetest tooth in the world."

A record number of 30,829 overseas motorists came to Britain last year. In 1957 the total was 24,800.

Swiss women are not to have the vote. The men decided this in a referendum by a majority of over two to one.

Holland exported 2726 million eggs last year.

Stores of emergency rations are to be kept at West Suffolk schools in case children are prevented by snow or floods from going home.

Unightly pit heaps in the East Midlands are to be sown with a special kind of grass seed.

A sound-proof room for crying babies is a feature of a new church near Adelaide, South Australia.

A coach which carried the mail on the west coast of South Island, New Zealand, 70 years ago was in action again the other day. It was taking part in the centenary celebrations of South Canterbury.

THEY SAY . . .

I REMEMBER one young fellow who came to me, and when I asked what he wanted in life he answered: "I want your job." That's the sort of person I employ.

Mr. Alick Dick, managing director of Standard Motors.

THERE is as good stuff in young people as ever there was.

Dr. W. L. S. Fleming, Bishop of Portsmouth.

THE world of music has a constant stream of immigrants, but there is no emigration.

Sir Adrian Boult

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OUR HOMELAND

A calm day on the Thames at Bisham Abbey in Berkshire

The Children's Newspaper, February 21, 1959



Concerto for four recorders

The four children of Carl Dolmetsch, world-famous player and maker of recorders, are themselves experts on these instruments. On April 30 they are due to give a recital at the Royal Festival Hall, London.

Lost ball

How a football came to be lodged in a sewer was a question that faced members of the Newark Rural Council, Nottinghamshire, at a recent meeting.

There was no question, however, that removing the ball had cost the Council something like £100.

POSTMEN ON SCOOTERS

The Australian Post Office has bought six motor scooters for use on delivery rounds. If the experiment is successful, many more are likely to be used.

BUFFALO BEEF

Trials are being carried out at Makerere College, Uganda, to see if African buffaloes can provide as much meat as beef cattle. Buffaloes can resist certain tropical diseases, and the trials so far indicate that they fatten more quickly on poor pastures than do beef cattle. In fact, they even thrive on grazings too poor to support ordinary cattle at all.

But, of course, the African buffalo is a wild animal, and much more difficult to herd than the domesticated cow.

Lincolnshire link with Australia

Two hundred people of Partney, near the Lincolnshire town of Spilsby, are hoping that Australians will help them with funds towards the restoration of their old church. For it was here in 1801 that a stout-hearted Lincolnshire seaman, Captain Matthew Flinders, famous explorer of Australia's coast-line, was married to Anne Chapelle.

By sailing round Tasmania he first proved that it was an island and not part of the Australian mainland as formerly believed.

WRIST-WATCHES FOR CN READERS

Congratulations to these winners of CN Competition No. 17, each of whom has been awarded a "Timex" Wrist-watch: J. Bailey, Southampton; Alison Dakin, Hornchurch; Monica Illoway, Slough; David Osborne, Kirkby-in-Ashfield; and Malcolm Trewhella, Blandford Forum.

Five-shilling Postal Orders for the next-best efforts go to: Patricia Drummond, Grantham; Richard Learey, London, E.6; Samuel Marshall, Loughgall; Anthony Palfreman, Linby; Susan Poulton, Morden; Marion Robinson, Coventry; Maurice Rogos, Cardiff; Suzanne Vanhouse, Three Bridges; David Whittaker, Work-sop; and Pamela Zalasinski, Nottingham.

SOLUTION: A. ANGEL FALLS. B. 200. C. HEPTAGON. D. STALACTITE. E. ULM CATHEDRAL.

CHANCE FOR BOY ACTORS

The Youth Theatre is to present Hamlet in London this summer, and the Director, Michael Croft, is now searching for suitable boy actors. He is holding auditions from February 23 onwards for boys from all over the country. Young actors aged 14 to 21 who would like to show what they can do should get in touch with Mr. Croft at 5 Montagu Place, London, W.1. They need not necessarily be intending to make the stage their career.

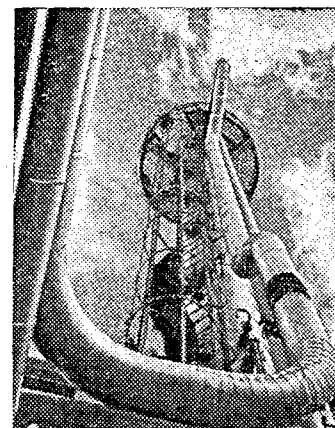
He hopes to secure a West End theatre for the production, and there is a possibility that the young company will afterwards tour Germany.

Rehearsals will be held during April at famous Dartington Hall, near Totnes, Devon, which has two excellent theatres—one in a 14th-century barn, and the other out of doors in a former tilting yard. The young actors will be the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Elmhirst, founders of the Dartington Hall centre.

Vintage fire-engines

Two 50-year-old fire-engines are being disposed of by the Urban Council of Tickhill, near Doncaster. The engines were horse-drawn with hand-operated pumps and carried a crew of ten or twelve men, and although unused for some years, are still in first-class condition.

Strange Shape



Seen from below, the fractionating tower of a petrol chemicals refinery at Stanlow, Cheshire, has a strange shape indeed.

Starlings on the warpath

From Rustenburg, a small country town in the Transvaal, comes news of the killing of a snake, a five-foot black ringhals, by a flock of starlings. The snake was trying to devour eggs from a nest in a tree when more than 60 birds attacked it. The fight, witnessed by a local tobacco farmer, lasted for about ten minutes before the snake was killed.

RESCUED BY PIGEON

When their launch sank and left them marooned on a coral island on the Barrier Reef, off the Queensland coast, three Australians sent an appeal for help by carrier pigeon. Their message was received and they were rescued.

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ERNEST THOMSON WRITES ABOUT RADIO AND TELEVISION PERSONALITIES AND PROGRAMMES

Young actor whose hair went white

NEVIL WHITING, who has such a friendly way of linking the pages of Lucky Dip in Associated-Rediffusion, got his first theatre



job sweeping the stage at Northampton Repertory. That was after he had trained at the Guildhall School with money from an Army grant following long service with the Royal Artillery.

Five years of acting in every sort of play at Northampton fitted him to take a small part in the touring version of South Pacific, and later the leading role. Nevil had to look 25 years older than he was, which meant whitening his hair and then washing it every night.

Now 30, Nevil is married with two little girls, aged four and one. His hobby is interior decoration. Not only has Nevil completely decorated their Hampstead flat; he finds time to beautify the homes of his friends.

Name your favourite programme

LAST year David Davis (David of Children's Hour) and Producer Josephine Plummer built a Castle in the Air with the 30,651 postcards that boys and girls sent in for Request Week. The year before they made a Card House of the 28,377 cards. In 1956 the number of cards was 23,153.

Despite the rivalry of TV on two channels, it does appear from these rising figures that Children's Hour on sound radio is more than holding its own.

Next Sunday, David tells me, he will give his annual five-minute talk about Request Week, this time with the title Staircase to the Moon.

"I think that's a topical line," he said. "With sputniks and space travel in the news, why not make Children's Hour Moon-minded, too? With the cards we get we hope to build a lunar staircase."

From Sunday onwards David is hoping young listeners will begin sending in their postcards, naming their six favourite programmes in the past year, either serials or single items.

Jennings at School topped the

poll again last year, but he will have to put up with plenty of rivalry this time.

It is believed that lots of children obtain cards but either do not fill them in or forget to post them.

"If you have never sent in a Request Week postcard before, do have a go now," says David.

Request Week will be from April 19 to 25, when excerpts from favourite programmes will be broadcast again.

In the age of automation

How much will machines dominate our lives in 20 years' time? We can hear an imaginary sound picture of the future in BBC Children's Hour next Saturday, in a programme written by Tony Gibson.

There will be interviews with young people who work in automation—on research work, in mechanised offices, and at the factory bench. Listen, too, for hints on careers now rapidly opening up in the field of automation.

New version of the old Poacher

Do you remember BBC Television's session of Dig This a few weeks back when Bob Miller and the Millermen looked like being stampeded by a platoon of marching Guardsmen? This visual trick was done with back-projection, a film of the Guards being shown on a large screen behind the Millermen.

The tune the Millermen were playing was a special arrangement of the old traditional melody, The Lincolnshire Poacher. Their first record, released this month, has the Poacher on one side and the now familiar Dig This tune on the other.

The youngest member of the Dig This team is 19-year-old Barry Barnett, who made his TV debut, not as a singer but as an actor, in the Billy Bunter series. "But I wanted to be a singer," he says,



Barry Barnett

"as long as I can remember." Barry's first big encouragement was after a summer season at Paignton, when he was offered a contract by a recording company.

Fun with Dr Primrose

NEARLY 200 years ago polite young ladies patronising the circulating library were all of a flutter over Dr. Oliver Goldsmith's The Vicar of Wakefield.

You can recapture their excitement by listening to the first-ever serialisation of this literary masterpiece for Children's Hour. Adapted by Mary Cathcart Borer, it begins this Wednesday, with Richard Goolden as good but simple Dr. Primrose, the Vicar, and Patience Collier as his wife.

David Davis of Children's Hour admits that much of the tale is "wildly improbable," but is full of the bouncing fun of which Goldsmith was a master. Mr. Burchell, the family hanger-on, will be played by Hamilton Dyce, with Mollie Maureen and Jean England as the daughters Olivia and Sophia. Phoebe Hodgson has the part of Miss Skeggs, whose manners left a lot to be desired.

Statistics made simple

AT last young viewers on BBC Television are to get the chance of watching Alfred Wurmser's brilliant animations for Facts and Figures without having to stay up until nearly 11 o'clock.



This Wednesday evening Facts and Figures begins a regular earlier timing—8.30—and it happens that the subjects are of special interest to young people. Statistics will be shown about teenagers, Christian names, and strange jobs. A boy engine-driver who is only 15 will come into the story.

Working on facts supplied by Frank Blackaby, Alfred Wurmser can turn the most complicated statistics into almost living symbols. He prepares his models in his own little workshop about five minutes' walk from Lime Grove studios. Most of the gadgets, whether for Facts and Figures or Science is News, or perhaps for giving the results of the Top Town contests, are no bigger than 16 by 12 inches, the size of a TV caption card.

At the Riding School

WET or fine, the weather will make no difference to BBC Television's Good Companions this Wednesday evening, for the broadcast is coming from an indoor riding school near Banbury.

Peter West and Stanley Dangerfield will be handing over most of the time to Dorian Williams, who will show young riders being taught grooming, training, and management. We can also watch jumping and mounted games, organised on the lines of those played by Pony Club members at the Harringay Horse of the Year Show.

MYSTERIOUS BALLOONS

FILM camera teams have been busy at Lydd Airport and have also ranged the bleaker parts of Sussex, getting background atmosphere for a promising six-part serial starting in BBC Children's TV on Saturday week.

Written by Justin Blake, it is called Garry Halliday, the name of the air-line pilot who spots mysterious balloons while plying his normal run between Britain and the Continent.

The two main parts are taken by two Terences—Terence Longden playing Garry, and Terence Alexander as his co-pilot. Ann Gudrun will be seen as the air hostess.

Elwyn Brooke-Jones has a sinister role and so has Maurice Kaufmann.

I am not giving too much away



Ann Gudrun

by saying that the balloons, it turns out, are being used to smuggle diamonds from Holland.

Guinea-pig Choirboys

SCHOOLBOY volunteers from the Croydon district will be seen in Choir Practice on BBC Television's Sunday Special on February 22. Some of them were seen when the Royal School of Church Music made their first TV broadcast last December.

Mr. Martin How, their conductor, tells me the boys act as "guinea-pigs" for the training of choirmasters, which is the function of the Royal School. The school premises are at 200-year-old

Addington Palace, near Croydon, formerly the country residence of the Archbishops of Canterbury.

Choristers of all ages should be able to pick up some useful hints during the broadcast. Mr. How will take the choir through a hymn, just as in a normal practice, with halts for pointing out where the rendering can be improved. The setting will be the BBC's biggest studios at Riverside.

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The first flowers that bloom in the spring

ST. VALENTINE'S DAY, February 14, is the traditional day when the birds start courting, and it makes a fair enough date for the start of the breeding cycle of most of our resident birds. The middle of February is also a good time for the flower-lover to start searching for new flowers coming into bloom, though the diarists of the Wild Flower Society actually start on March 1.

Of course, there are a handful of flowers that go on right through the winter, except for the hardest and most prolonged spells of frost. These include such common weeds as groundsel, chickweed, common field speedwell, shepherd's purse, daisy, and annual meadow-grass.

Another group, including dandelion, sun spurge, small nettle, white dead-nettle, and Oxford ragwort, will flower right through a mild winter, like that of 1956-57, but are brought to a full stop by the first really cold spell lasting more than a few days, such as the sharp frosts we had in the first half of January.

ALL THROUGH THE WINTER

Another rather curious group are the spring flowers that may start in a mild autumn, and if the weather is favourable will go right on all through the winter. If the winter is a hard one they stop and start up again at the usual time in early spring. Gorse or whin is one of these, and the primrose is another—in my garden it often starts to flower in November, or even as early as the end of October.

The first of the real spring flowers, that never seem to start before Christmas, but nearly always do so by the end of January, are those of the hazel,

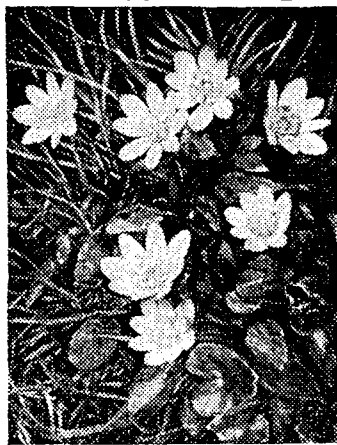


The early snowdrop, "Morning star of flowers"

whose yellow catkins make the well-known "lamb's tails." The catkins are the male flowers; the nuts come from the tiny red female flowers, which open a little later.

Two more flowers which are ever-welcome in January are the yellow winter aconite and the white snowdrop. Both of them are often found in woods and copses. But for me, spring really begins when I see the first coltsfoot, or the first yellow blooms of the lesser celandine.

Last year I saw my first coltsfoot in Gloucestershire on Feb-



There's a flower that shall be mine, 'Tis the little celandine

ruary 8 and my first celandine in Oxfordshire on the 28th. The earliest coltsfoot I have ever seen was in Berkshire on February 2 in 1957, and my earliest celandine was on February 9 in that same year, which, incidentally, was a remarkably good one for early flowering.

The coltsfoot looks at first sight like a miniature dandelion, but its flower pattern is actually more like a daisy's, with two kinds of florets, short ones in the middle and a border of long ones round the edge.

Dandelions, daisies, and coltsfoot all belong to the great Composite family, in which the apparently single flowers are actually heads composed of a lot of tiny flowers, which may be of two kinds, long and short.

ON WASTE GROUND

Coltsfoot gets its name from the shape of its big leaves, which do not appear above the ground until the flowers are almost finished. It grows on all kinds of waste ground, especially by roads and railways.

The lesser celandine belongs to the Buttercup family, and its much smaller leaves are up at the same time as the flowers. It grows in dampish woods and copses, and can be a garden weed. The lesser celandine must not be confused with the greater celandine, a much larger plant of the Poppy family, which grows on walls and in hedge-banks and starts to flower in May.

RICHARD FITTER

Those were the days for a haircut

A list of hairdressers' prices as they were before the First World War has just been discovered at Barnsley.

This is how they run:

"Hairdressers' Association. Official Price List."

Shaving 2d. Hair Cutting 3d. American Hair Cut 4d. Hair Cutting (with beard) 4d. Hair Cutting (Boys) 2d. Hair Trimming 3d. Beard Trimming 2d. Shampooing 4d. Singeing 2d. Neck Shave 1d. Razors Re-set 6d. Razors Ground and Set 9d.

NEW FILMS

WAR-TIME DASH FOR DIAMONDS

FANTASTIC adventures were woven into the cruel tapestry of the war; indeed, some of them were so incredible that they now seem like the work of fiction writers, this being particularly true of the exploits of brave men who risked their lives in secret work behind the battle-fronts.

One of these stirring, real-life adventures has now been filmed as Operation Amsterdam. It all took place while the German armies, advancing on Holland, were closing in on Amsterdam. When it seemed certain that the city must fall, the British and Dutch governments conferred and decided that every effort must be made to ensure that Holland's rich store of industrial diamonds did not fall into Nazi hands.

A British major, with two Dutch patriotic diamond experts, was shipped to Holland on a British destroyer with orders to bring back the precious stones to London. They had just 14 hours to fulfil this mission—14 hours which bristled with danger.

They landed under gunfire and bombardment from enemy planes.

But this was not the worst of their problems. Holland was full of Fifth Columnists, traitors disguised as loyal Dutchmen. Who could they trust? This girl, for instance, whose car they commandeered and who offered to drive them—was she a patriot or not?

Briskly, yet cautiously, they went ahead with their task of persuading the diamond merchants to trust them with their valuable wares. Then, under cover, they had

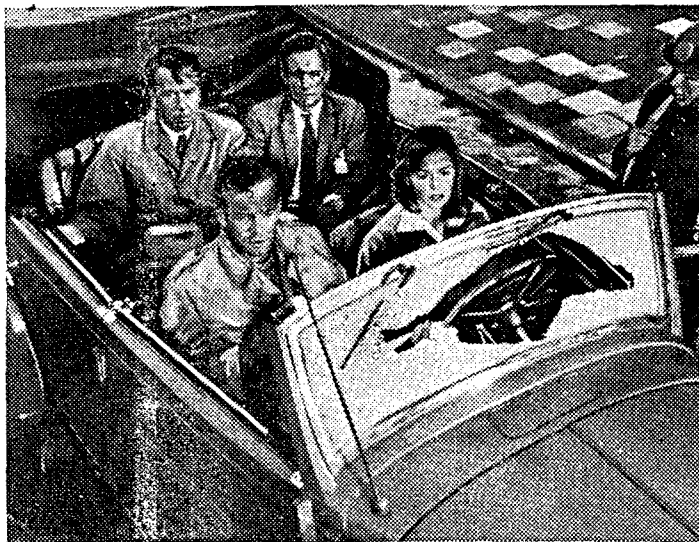
to blow up a vault to get the bulk of the gems. And all the time they were hounded by the enemy.

The precious hours ticked away, but these three men—and one girl—managed to get back to the destroyer with only minutes to spare.

Tony Britton gives a fine performance as the major—a man dedicated to the job in hand, but so zealous that he even manages to blow up an oil dump as well



Three men and a girl take cover in Operation Amsterdam



Anna (Eva Bartok) drives the three men in their dash for the harbour

during this busy day! Peter Finch and Alexander Knox give admirable support as the two Dutchmen who are drawn into the adventure for love of their country. Eva Bartok is the girl, at first mistrusted by the men but eventually winning their admiration by her coolness and bravery.

As well as some very good acting, this film gives vivid pictures of a city under threat of capture. The atmosphere of mistrust, the smell of fear, and the tingle of danger round every corner—all are finely portrayed. There is breathtaking suspense, too, particularly as the trio, with some loyal undercover men, tackle the job of breaking into the vault, knowing that every minute of delay could bring death to themselves and disaster to their all-important mission.

CHANGES AHEAD FOR AUSTRALIA

What will Australia be like 100 years from now?

Nevil Shute, the novelist, told a Canberra convention the other day that the Dominion will probably have 100 million people—about ten times as many as at present. The wheat harvest could easily be increased to meet their needs, he foresaw, but there would not be enough natural fresh water. The deficiency would have to be made up by distilling sea water.

Australian character will change in the next century, according to Mr. Shute. The people will be more placid, a little less successful, especially in sport, than they are now, due to their being obliged to eat less meat.

He surprised the convention by forecasting that in 40 years more migrants would be coming from America than from Britain. This would be due to the rising population of the United States, causing Americans to look abroad for new homes.

See the new

FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

Here are the first 10 Nelson Juniors—exciting paperbacks, with bright, full-colour covers.

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MARJORIE & CO.

POCOMOTO—COWBOY CAVALIER

THE ISLAND CASTLE

KEMLO AND THE MARTIAN GHOSTS

TESSA AND SOME PONIES

THE HOUSE OF THE PELICAN

Non-Fiction

A PUZZLE-MINE

HOW I BECAME A BALLET DANCER

TOP-LINK LOCOMOTIVES

NELSON JUNIORS

EACH 2/6

Fiction

PAMELA BROWN

LORNA HILL

REX DIXON

MARY FITT

E. C. ELIOTT

LADY KITTY RITSON

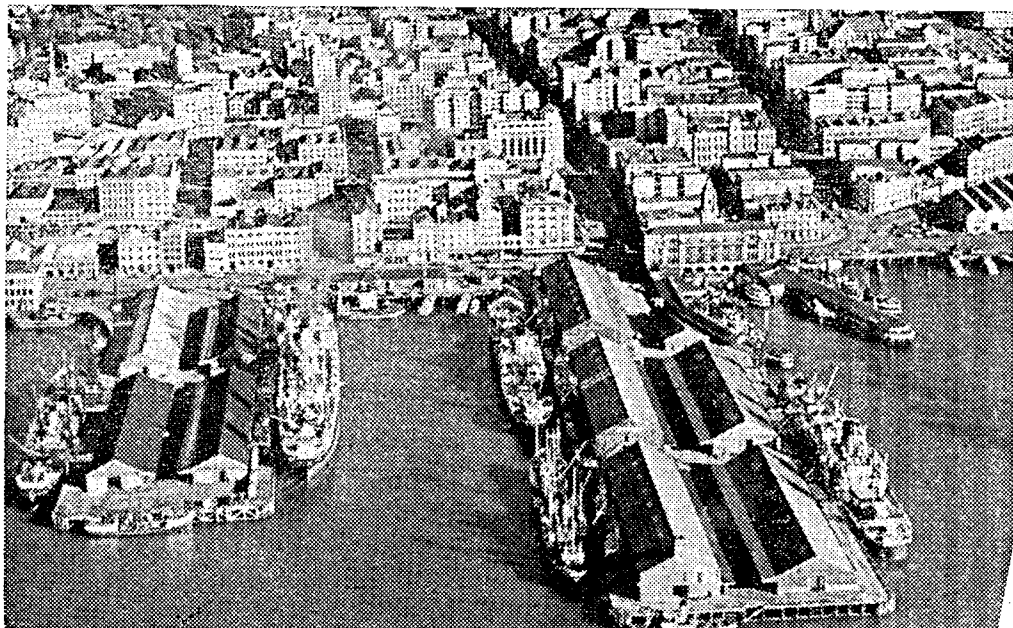
ELISABETH KYLE

H. E. DUDENEY

PEGGY VAN PRAAGH

NORMAN McKILLOP

COMMONWEALTH PAN



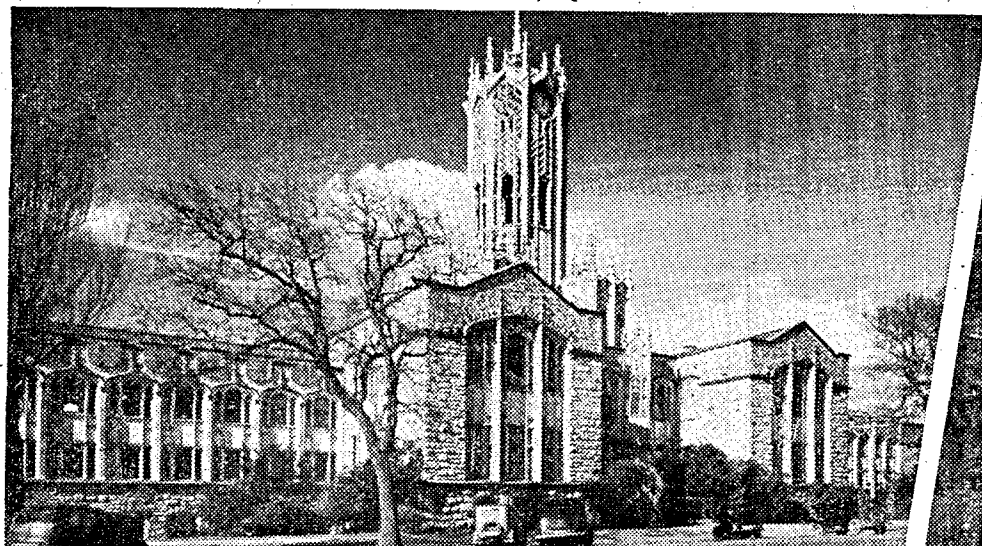
The dock area of the city of Auckland, capital of Auckland Province



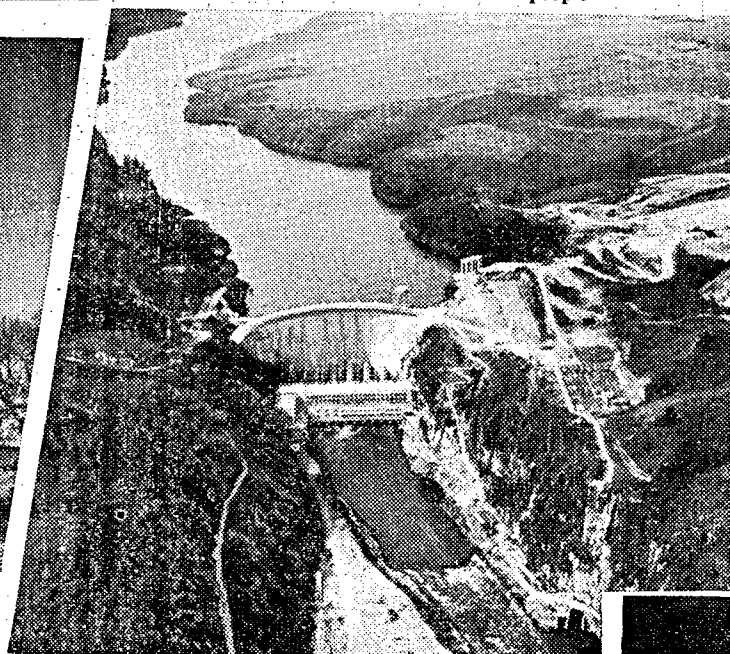
The city's monument to the Maori people

NEW ZEALAND'S northernmost and biggest province. Auckland has an area of 25,420 square miles, half the size of England. The population is about 900,000, including over 103,000 Maoris. The capital is New Zealand's oldest and largest city, Auckland, which stands on the fine harbour of Waitemata.

EUROPEAN civilisation in Auckland may be said to have begun with the landing in 1814 of the celebrated missionary Samuel Marsden. He was followed, 26 years later, by Captain William Hobson, R.N., who made a treaty with the Maoris and proclaimed British sovereignty over New Zealand. He bought 3000 acres of land in what is now the city of Auckland, paying the Maoris partly in money and partly in blankets, hatchets, and other



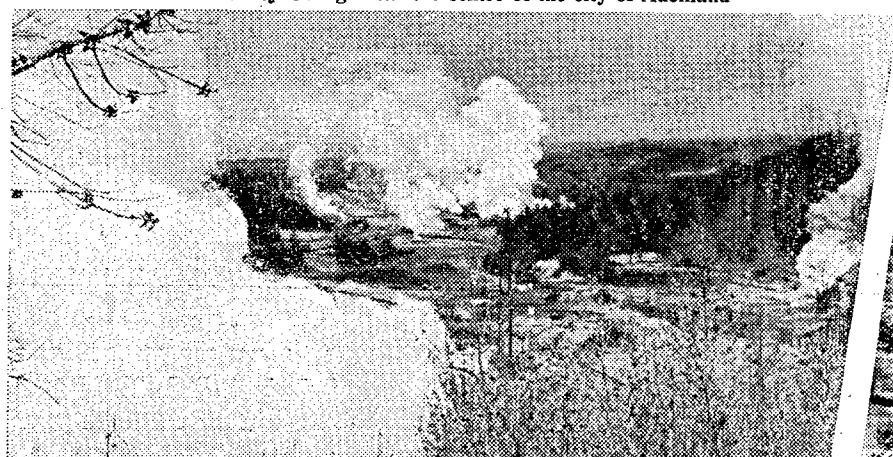
University College near the centre of the city of Auckland



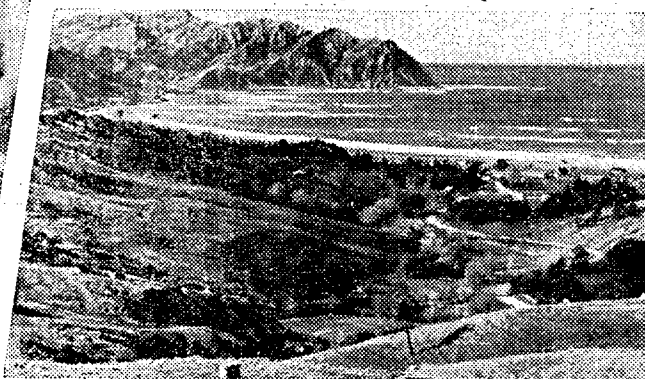
Lake Maraetai, with its great dam and power station



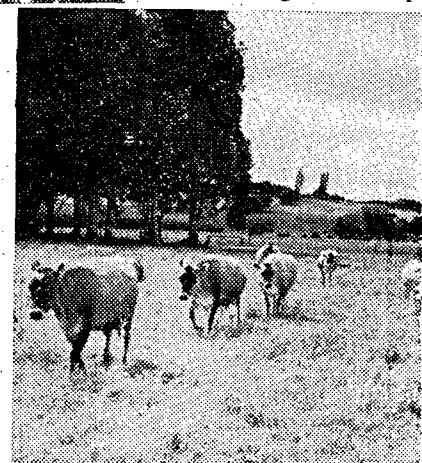
Cooking with steam pi



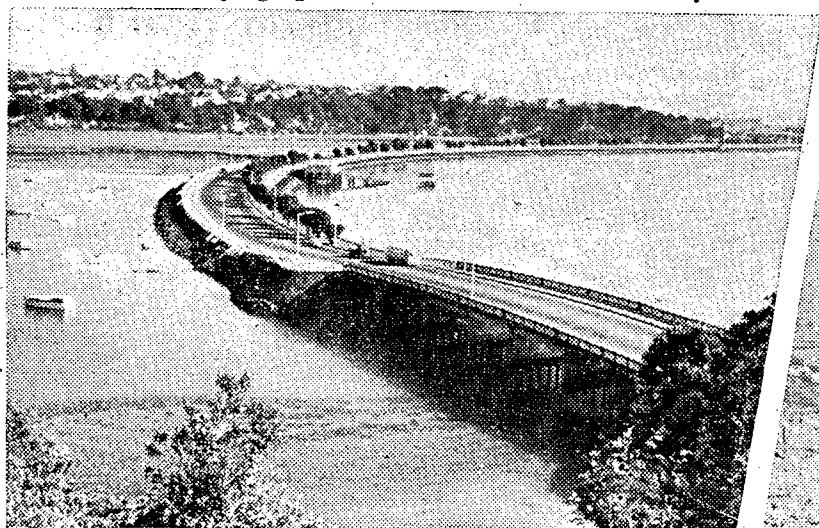
The hot spring region of Wairakei which now serves industry



Tokomaru Bay, where some of the early Maoris landed



A herd of Jersey cows, the most



The motor causeway linking Auckland City with some of its suburbs



Anglers out for trout in Lake Taupo



Recruits to the Women's Army Corp

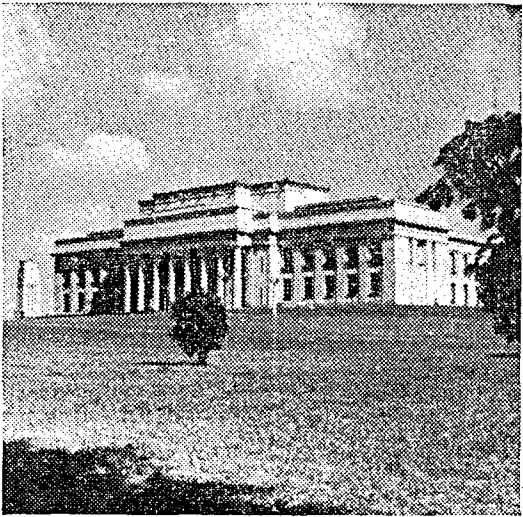
February 21, 1959

VORAMA... AUCKLAND

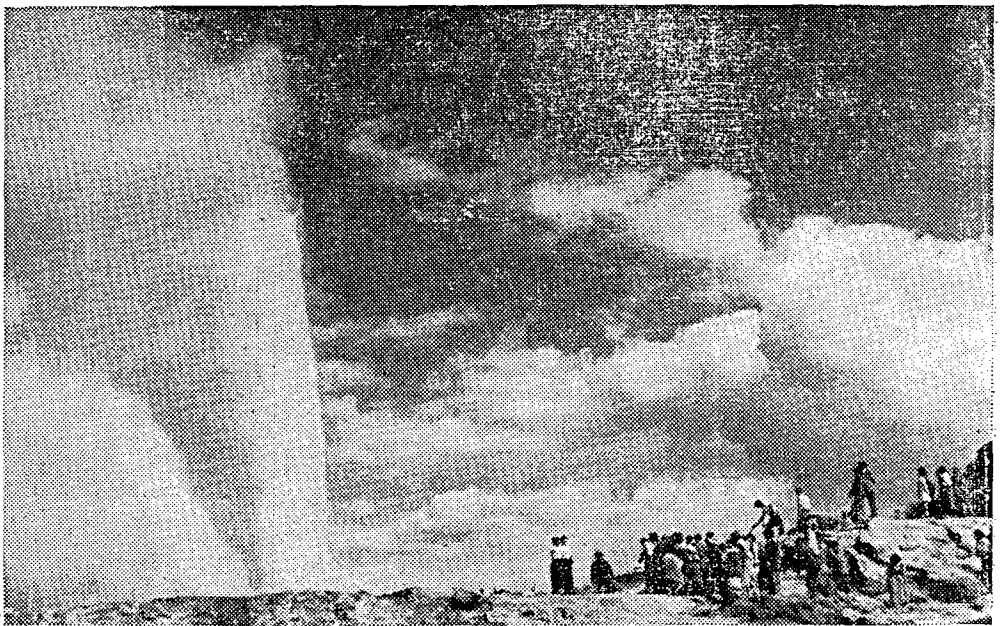
articles. The settlement thus founded was the capital of New Zealand until 1865, when Wellington became the seat of government.

THE whole province of Auckland developed rapidly, and has become one of the Dominion's most prosperous regions. Dairy-farming is the most important industry of the province; two-thirds of all New Zealand's dairy produce comes from Auckland farms. Meat, wool, and timber are other valuable exports. Auckland city is New Zealand's leading manufacturing centre, served by great hydro-electric power stations, and electricity generated by natural steam. The city's industrial products include car bodies, plastics, textiles, refrigerators, pottery, and building materials.

The pictures are reproduced by courtesy of the High Commissioner for New Zealand.



Auckland's imposing War Memorial and Museum



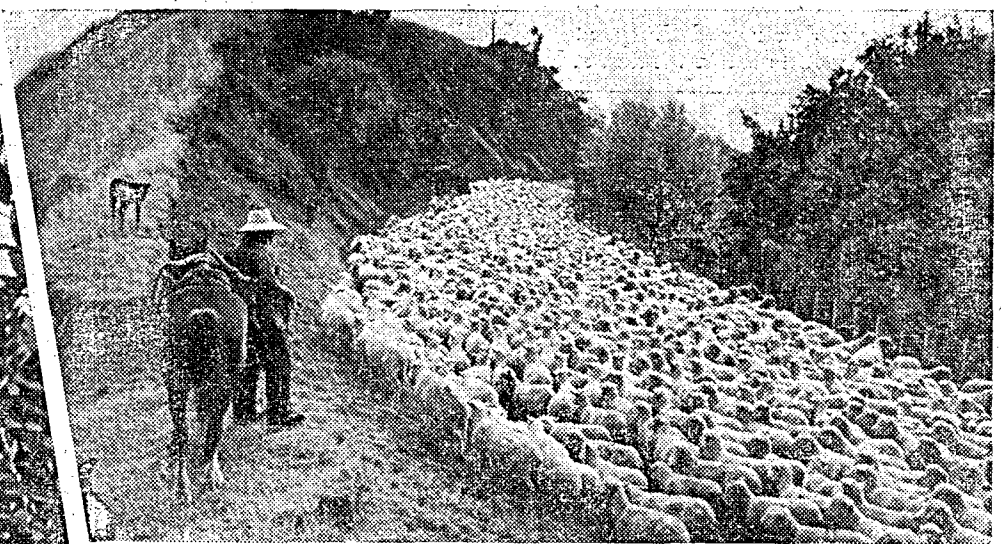
The Pohutu Geyser in the district of Rotorua



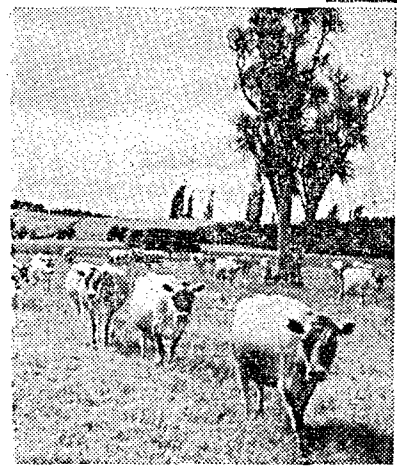
ed from the hot springs



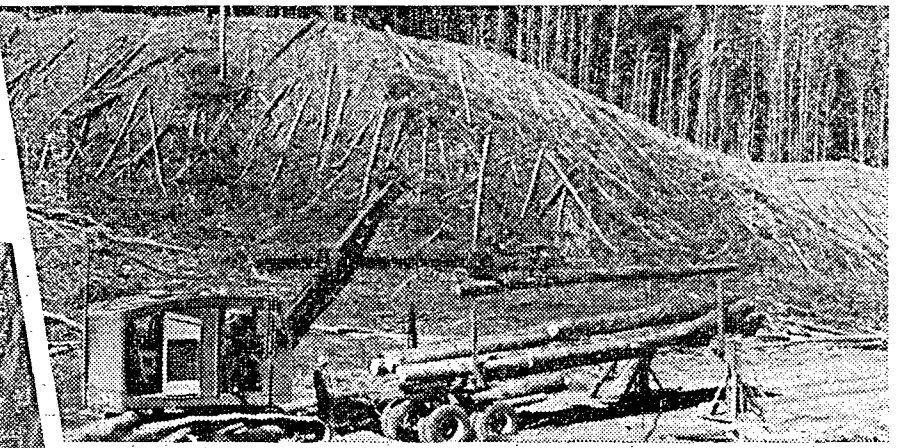
A weird Tiki, or Maori image



Sheep by the hundred on a coastal road near Gisborne



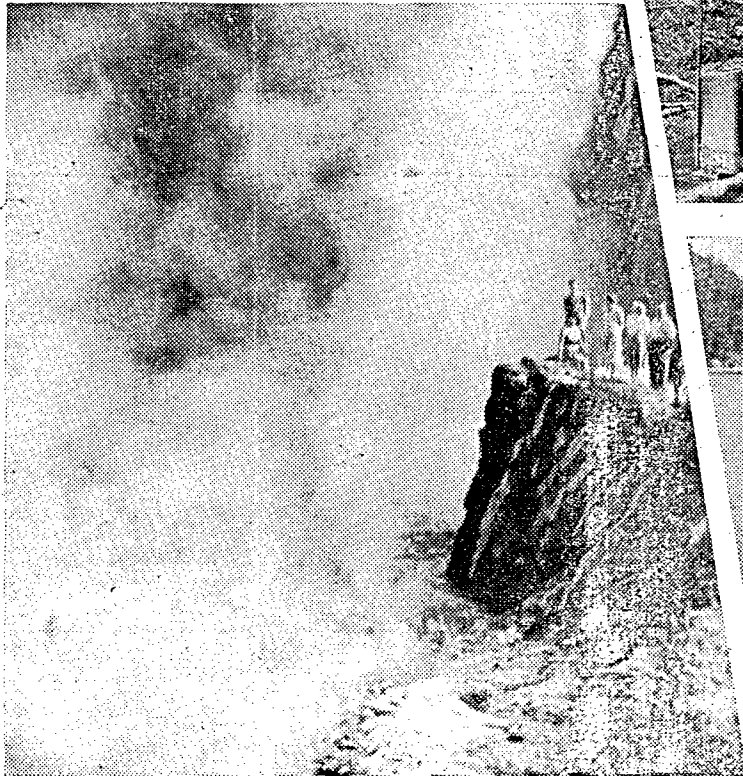
avoured breed in New Zealand



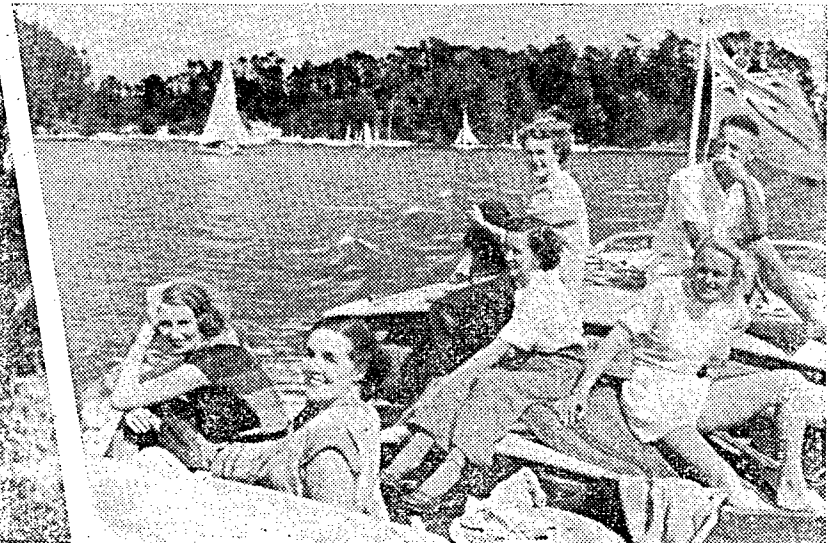
Loading felled timber in one of the great forests



is in training near Auckland City



Tourists at a steaming pool in Wairakei's Geyser Valley



All aboard the launch for a trip in the Hauraki Gulf



A nibble from the basket

A Formosan deer named Patsy, at the London Zoo, finds something good to eat in the basket held by a young visitor.

LOOKING AT THE SKY

Little world found by chance

PLUTO, that lonely world at the outer limits of our Solar System, is now at its nearest to us. Unfortunately, it is invisible to the naked eye; even in a very powerful telescope it is seen only as a faint star of 14½ magnitude. However, the cross on the star-map shows just where it is situated.

Pluto, with a diameter of about 4900 miles, is slightly bigger than Mars. But what a vastly different world it is out there, some 3250 million miles away. The Sun appears only as a very bright star, bestowing about 1000 times less light and heat than upon us. Of course, there is neither air nor water on such a world, though there may be a thin atmosphere of methane.

By comparing the accompanying star-map with that which appeared

in the CN of February 7, showing the position of Uranus relative to Regulus, it will be seen that Pluto appears in the same part of the sky as Uranus.

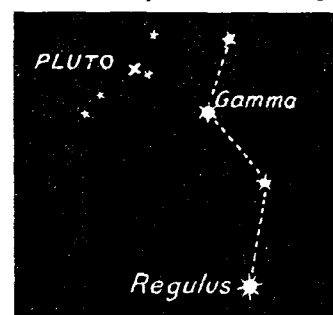
For many years past Pluto has been approaching the *perihelion*, or nearest point of its orbit to the Sun. Consequently, this small world comes each year a few million miles nearer to our own world, and also to Uranus. This has become obvious by noting how much farther to the west Uranus was from Pluto only a few years ago.

Actually it has been rather more than a century since Pluto began

more distant planet. But no such planet was to be found throughout the sky.

The famous astronomer and mathematician, Percival Lowell, tackled the problem in 1905 from Flagstaff Observatory in the U.S. He made elaborate and prolonged calculations and eventually announced just where the new world should be found.

But no planet was to be seen, even with the most powerful telescopes. So he arranged to photograph the area where he predicted the mystery world would be. But it was not till after his death, in 1916, that the presence of Pluto was finally revealed, and then it was by chance. In March, 1930, Dr. Clyde Tombaugh, was examining two photographic plates for evidence of asteroids. Suddenly he realised that the tiny streak on the plate was not an asteroid at all, but actually the missing world, the diminutive Pluto. G. F. M.



Part of the Sickle of Leo, the position of Pluto being indicated by a cross

to approach both the Earth and Uranus from the *aphelion* (farthest point) region of its oval orbit.

It takes Pluto about 248½ years to travel round its orbit at an average speed of about three miles a second. It appears, from periodical changes in its faint light, as reflected from the Sun, that Pluto rotates in nearly 6½ of our days; but the angle its axis makes with the Sun is not yet known. However, as Pluto is coming closer to us, this and other problems may be solved.

The astonishing thing was the way Pluto came to be discovered at all. It had long been known that Uranus and, to a lesser degree, Neptune were being pulled out of the proper positions in their orbits by some powerful gravitational force which could only be accounted for by some

THE REAL ROBINSON CRUSOE

It is 250 years since the man who inspired Defoe's Robinson Crusoe was rescued from the Pacific island of Juan Fernandez, on which he had spent four years without human companions. His name was Alexander Selkirk, and he was rescued in February 1709, a yawl with two officers and six men from the privateer Duke having been sent to investigate the reason for a fire seen on the island, which was thought to be uninhabited. The coast was explored and as no vessel could be seen, a party of men went ashore.

They were met by a wild man in goatskins who invited them to a meal of goat-flesh stew, and told them that he was a Scot, Alexander Selkirk, who had been first mate of the ship, Cinque Ports. He had had a disagreement with the captain and, choosing to be put ashore, had been left with his sea-chest, clothes and bedding, a musket, a pound of gunpowder, some bullets, a flint and steel, some tobacco, a hatchet, a knife, a kettle, a Bible and a few other

books, and his mathematical instruments.

Soon overcoming his fear, he had learned to live on the produce of the island. There were plenty of goats, and when his gunpowder was exhausted he had trained himself to catch them with his bare hands. He had built two huts, one to live in and the other as a food store.

GOATSKIN CLOTHES

His companions had been tame goats and cats, of which he had become very fond. When his clothes were worn out, he had made himself goatskin garments, using a nail for a needle and strips of goatskin for thread. After his knife had become useless, he had made others from iron hoops he found on the shore.

Such was the strange, lonely life that this castaway lived for more than four years before the men from the privateer found him. He was taken aboard the Duke and eventually reached England in

October 1711, having been abroad for over eight years.

Captain Woodes Rogers, who commanded the privateer, gave an account of Selkirk's rescue in *A Cruising Voyage Round the World*, published in 1712. There can be little doubt that it inspired Defoe to write Robinson Crusoe, first published in 1719.

Alexander Selkirk died, probably of fever, on H.M.S. Weymouth on December 13, 1721. In 1868 a tablet was erected by some British naval officers on Juan Fernandez Island at a point called "Selkirk's Look-out." The island today belongs to Chile and has a population of about 500. There is a statue of the castaway at his birthplace, Largo in Fifeshire, and of course his memory is kept evergreen by William Cowper's famous lines on Solitude beginning:

*I am monarch of all I survey,
My right there is none to dispute.
But his most enduring memorial is Defoe's story. Alexander Selkirk will live for ever in the hearts of children as Robinson Crusoe.*

Souvenirs of flying days

A museum covering over 40 years of British aviation is to be set up at the Royal Air Force College, Cranwell, Lincolnshire, and the commandant has appealed for Cranwell souvenirs. A uniform worn by King George VI when he served at Cranwell is already displayed at the entrance to the officers' mess there.

The college was started 39 years ago, but the station's connection with flying goes back to 1916 when the Royal Naval Air Service Training Establishment was opened there with the name H.M.S. Daedalus. The station was used for long-distance flights which helped Britain take the lead in flying in the 1930s.

The college already possesses a parachute flare carried by Sir John Alcock and Sir Arthur Whitten Brown on the first non-stop flight across the Atlantic in 1919.

PIONEERS OF FLIGHT—new picture-story of the famous Wright brothers (7)



The Wrights' friend was not seriously hurt, but their plane was too badly damaged for further flights in 1903. The fact that it had actually flown passed almost unnoticed in America, for most newspaper editors would not believe or print the story.



Even the Wrights' neighbours doubted that they had flown. The public, generally, were inclined to believe a distinguished American scientist who had recently written an article "proving" that man would never achieve flight in a heavier-than-air machine.



But some of the younger generation were impressed. A teacher at Medina, Ohio, was amazed at the interest shown by his boys when he happened to mention that two Ohio men had shown how "a flying machine could be constructed without the aid of a balloon."



In 1904 the Wrights built another plane, hired a field at Dayton, and invited local journalists to come and see them fly. But the engine failed just before the plane could take off, and the reporters went away convinced that it was an absurd contraption that could never fly.

The age of flying has begun, but its pioneers are still held up to ridicule. See next week's instalment

A new series about men who take their lives in their hands

LIVING DANGEROUSLY

By Garry Hogg

5. THE DIVER

Chapter 2

MOST divers will say that they would rather work at almost any depth of clear sea-water than work at a quite moderate depth where the bottom is soft mud. For not only is movement difficult in these conditions, but every step they take stirs up the mud and helps to produce a "fog" which the most powerful lamps are incapable of penetrating. This is a form of darkness in which the diver is unusually handicapped and frustrated.

Such conditions are frequently found in harbours, and on the beds of estuaries into which rivers have brought a big accumulation of silt. If a vessel sinks into such a bottom, the problem of salvaging her, even though there may be no great depth of water, becomes very considerable. For the customary practice is to get hawsers and cables beneath her and attach the ends of the hawsers to "camels"—enormous pontoons which can be filled with compressed air and will often lift the sunken vessel on a rising tide and eventually bring her to the surface.

But to slip hawsers beneath the keel and bilges of a vessel that may have sunk many yards into soft mud presents a very real problem. The best method so far evolved is to "blast" a passage for each hawser through the mud and silt. The only way to do this is to send down a diver with the nozzle of a high-pressure hose attached to him and then, when he gives the signal, to pump water down the hose at full pressure.

The diver's task is to direct the nozzle so that the jet of water bores a hole through the mud, down beneath the keel and up on the other side. Through this passage he will hope to be able to feed the end of a wire hawser.

It is a far more dangerous job than it may sound. When water is pumped at high pressure through a hose, the hose becomes as solid as an iron bar; but at the same time it is "alive." Any change in the pressure of water inside it will cause the hose to twist and writhe and stiffen, and the heavy nozzle to shudder in the diver's grasp.

If he lets go of it, or if it is snatched from his grasp by a change in the pressure from the

pumps or the resistance of the mud into which he is aiming it, it can leap about in the water like an attacking cobra and, if he is not quick to dodge and at the same time to signal to the surface, injure him or even kill him.

One veteran diver working at a depth of no more than eight fathoms in a standard diving-suit had a terrifying experience, when engaged on this operation, technically known as "washing-out." He was working beneath the fore part of a sunken hull on the starboard side. Having called for more pressure from the pumps overhead, he suddenly felt the nozzle snatched from his grasp. At the same time, released from the

passed through it; the pressure dropped to what was normal for that depth; he was saved.

As a result of that accident the salvage company saw to it that in future divers engaged on such perilous operations as this always worked in pairs instead of singly, and it was a wise decision.

More spectacular by far than these eight-fathom jobs on muddy bottoms are the major jobs of salvage that hit the headlines of the world's newspapers and keep readers agog for weeks, perhaps months, on end.

Valuable cargo

Where bullion or other valuable cargo is concerned, the work of the salvage men takes on a special interest, and very few achievements of the kind have aroused more excitement than the salvage work done on the R.M.S. Niagara. She struck a mine when outward bound from Sydney, Australia, in the early months of World War II and sank in under two hours. She had eight tons of gold ingots on board, valued at £2,500,000.

Such a valuable cargo could not be allowed to vanish without a struggle. And a struggle it certainly was; part, because of the great depth at which the foundered vessel lay—over seventy fathoms—and partly because owing to the fact that Britain was at war at the time, all her usual resources were on salvage jobs much nearer home.

At over 400 feet a diver cannot work even in the armoured diving-suit already described: the pressures are far too great, so special equipment is needed.

The equipment took the form of an observation chamber. It stood nine feet high, weighed three tons, had a steel dome as thick as the armour-plating of a heavy tank, and was fitted with a dozen small, immensely strong portholes through which the occupant could see in all directions.

Battery of instruments

Inside the diving-bell was a battery of instruments to record atmospheric pressure, to control the equilibrium of the massive object, to register depth and angle and drift, temperature and humidity. Powerful lamps were attached to it, controllable from the interior, and a telephone enabled the operator to maintain the closest contact with the salvage men working on deck.

The observation chamber was an "eye" from which the expert on the spot guided the work of the men up above who were operating a giant mechanical grab—a kind of huge pincers—designed to break through to the heart of the Niagara's strong-room and extract from it the heavy chests in which

the gold ingots were packed. This grab, of course, had to be lowered the seventy fathoms, and then manoeuvred through hatchways or other openings, through doorways and past twisted steel bulkheads. The men overhead would be working "blind" were it not for the presence of the skilled diver who could direct their manipulation of the grab by telephone.

The layout of the interior of the Niagara was studied in closest detail, and a scale-model constructed for use during salvage operations. Every passage, bulkhead, door and other feature of the Niagara was lettered or numbered on the scale-model and the lettering and numbering memorised by Chief Diver Johnstone, the man who was to operate the chamber and direct the manipulation of the grab. This was so that there would be no confusion overhead when he telephoned his instructions from seventy fathoms down.

Because the Niagara had foundered as a result of an explosion, it was to be expected that her steel plates, her decks and girders and stanchions, her bulkheads, doors and fittings generally, would be grotesquely distorted; and indeed this proved to be the case. The scale-model used by the men aboard the salvage vessel was a much more handsome affair than the twisted and crippled vessel on the sea-bed far below them.

First of the ingots

For weeks, for months, the grab was lowered and manoeuvred time and time again, while Chief Diver Johnstone directed proceedings from his three-ton point of vantage on the sea-bed.

But it was a long nine months before the diver, watching the grab ascend slowly past one of the windows of his observation chamber, saw something very different from anything he had seen before in that pair of outsize pincers: it looked suspiciously like a chest of the type he well knew was used for the transport of bullion!

By the time he had surfaced and been released a massive metal-bound, barnacle-covered, wooden chest was on the deck. Hammer and cold chisel made short work of its lid. The lid was thrown back and a gleam of bright metal caught the sun. It was a yellow gleam; the unmistakable gleam of gold! The first two gold ingots had been retrieved.

The Niagara's strong-room, when she sailed from Sydney, had contained 295 of these boxes; each box contained two ingots; each ingot was worth, at the time, about £4000. The salvage men knew that there remained a total not far short of 600 ingots to recover; but the fact that already they had recovered two gave them new heart.

It was in October 1941 that the first

pair of ingots were recovered; only two or three days later 18 more ingots came up in the grab in nine water-worn chests.

But it was a long two months of solid work from dawn till dusk before he was able to report that there were no more chests in the strong-room. Overhead the men had counted a tally of 278 chests. There should have been 295. But the explosion had been so severe that it was not surprising that a handful of the chests had been hurled through a gap, to fall into the glutinous mud of the sea-bed.

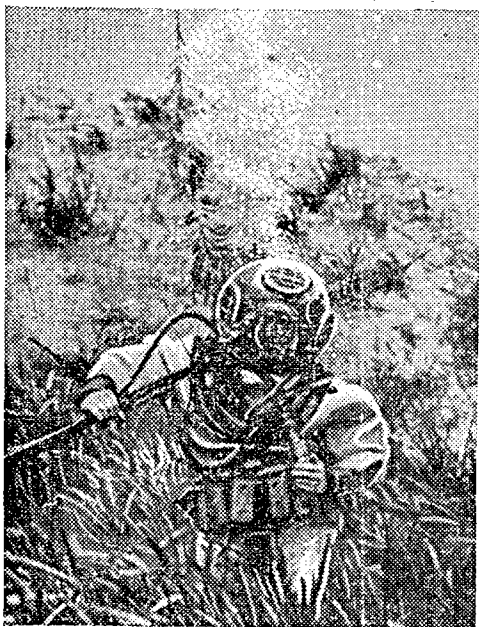
Diver Johnstone knew that to look for them in such conditions would be hopeless. "Up the bell!" he telephoned for the last time. From start to finish he had spent some twelve months in his "bell"—first in the interminable and fearfully frustrating job of trying to force an entrance into the battered ship Niagara, then of finding and penetrating her strong-room, and finally of directing the movements of the grab as it searched for, gripped and withdrew from the heart of the foundered ship the elusive chests of gold ingots.

Refloating the Normandie

Probably the greatest feat ever accomplished in the whole history of salvaging ships took place alongside one of the famous piers in New York Harbour. The great liner Normandie was being converted into a troop-carrier when she caught fire and, in spite of all the efforts of the New York fire brigades and harbour fire-floats, burned like a torch for twelve hours, then heeled over and sank into soft mud beneath deep water. She had cost £8,000,000 to build and hundreds of thousands more to convert; her loss just then simply could not be afforded, and, of course, she was a menace to all other shipping using this port.

Far too large to lift with "camels" and hawsers, there was only one possible means of bringing her back to the surface. That was to seal every hatchway, every ventilator and porthole, every orifice however small, and then pump air into her until she rose of her own accord. Before this could be begun, more than 100,000 tons of thin mud had to

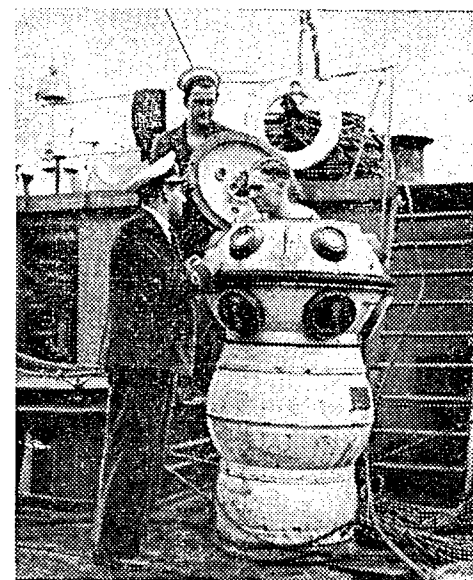
Continued on page 10



A diver at work on the sea-bed

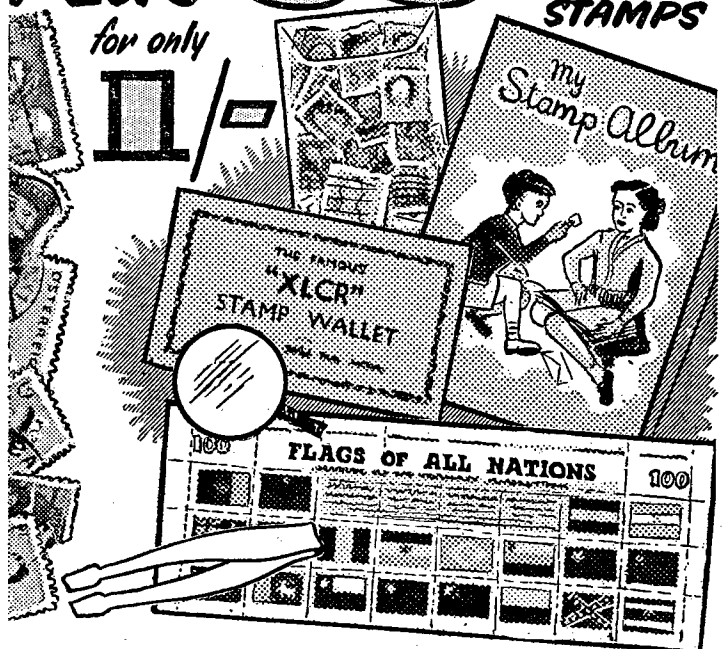
strain of holding it, he lost his footing, and fell into the open end of the passage he was trying to clear. The nozzle jerked to one side, and the full force of the jet hit him between the shoulders, and drove him head first into the passage. As he struggled to get clear of the stream of water, he felt the exhaust-valve of his helmet failing, and realised that it had become clogged with thin silt.

His plight was desperate. Compressed air was being pumped into his helmet but he could not expel it because the valve was blocked. In a matter of seconds he must suffocate. A deep-sea diver, however, has learned to think fast. He grabbed for the nozzle that was hurling the jet of high-speed water on to his shoulders, and deliberately turned it on to his helmet. The impact almost broke his neck, and the thunder of the jet on the metal deafened him so that for many hours afterwards he could not hear anything at all except the sound as of Niagara inside his own head. But the jet cleared the valve; the air



A type of observation chamber used by the Royal Navy

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THE WORLD OF STAMPS

DURING the last 12 years Czecho-
slovakia has issued, on aver-
age, one new postage stamp every
week. To make a complete col-
lection of them would require a
good deal of patience—and
pocket-money—but a few carefully
chosen sets can be acquired with-
out undue cost.

One recent Czechoslovak series,
sure to be popular, features dif-
ferent motor vehicles, beginning
with the first Czech steam auto-
mobile, made by Josef Bozek in
1815. This vehicle was banned
from the roads after it had run
over the pet dog of a State official.



The 45-heller value (pictured
here) shows the "President," a
petrol-driven car made in 1897 at
Koprivnice, in Moravia. In the
following year this car covered the
190 miles to Vienna at an overall
speed of nearly five miles an
hour! Modern vehicles, including
the Skoda 450 sports coupé, the
Tatra 603 saloon, and the Skoda
706 motor coach, are shown on
the higher values of this interest-
ing series.

Several other countries have
also issued stamps featuring vin-
tage motor cars. In 1955 West
Germany celebrated the 50th anni-
versary of the first mail-carrying
motor coach by issuing a special

stamp showing one of the early
coaches. A Swiss stamp (shown



here), issued in 1956 to celebrate
a similar anniversary, showed a
post-office vehicle of 1906 in its
yellow-and-black livery.

I SUPPOSE that most people who
are familiar with the delightful
songs from My Fair Lady know
that this musical is based upon
George Bernard Shaw's play, Pyg-
malion. But I wonder how many
know that G.B.S. has been por-
trayed on stamps of Bulgaria,
Rumania, and the Soviet Union?

The Russian stamp, seen here,



was issued in 1956 to mark the
centenary of
his birth. Al-
though the
portrait is
well-drawn
and life-like,
it is difficult
to understand
why the de-
signer added
a picture of
the familiar
clock-tower of the Houses of Par-
liament, for Shaw was never an
M.P. and on more than one
occasion he made caustic remarks
about politicians!

LIVING DANGEROUSLY

Continued from page 9

be pumped out of her. Every
scrap of her contents that could
be removed had to be brought to
the surface so that she could be
lightened sufficiently to be lifted.

Every diver working with oxy-
acetylene was accompanied by a
mate equipped with fire-fighting
gear; a gang of experts were con-
tinuously at work watching the
divers' air-lines to see that they
did not chafe through or foul one
another as the divers penetrated
farther and farther into the
bowels of the great liner; because
of the muddy water, for the most
part all these men were working
continuously in thick fog, their
hands being more use to them
than their eyes. The job of seal-
ing off the liner's enormous fun-
nels was a major problem in
itself, but only one of a thousand
such problems, each demanding
a new approach, a new flash of
improvisation.

Freeing the Giant

A thousand men worked con-
tinuously for a year and a half
before the moment came to begin
to pump air into the submerged
liner.

Slowly, as the air-tight com-
partments to starboard and port
filled with compressed air, the
giant Normandie tore herself
reluctantly free from the silt in
which she had lain for 18 months;
slowly she rose till she broke the

surface of the water in New York
Harbour and lay once more, a
shell of a liner, rusting and bat-
tered between piers 88 and 90.

The work of salvage men,
among whom the divers them-
selves are by far the most im-
portant, is work that demands
almost unbelievable patience and
faith. Few of the thousand
workers at the beginning of the
long, laborious, dangerous 18
months would have been pre-
pared to expect success; but not
one of them would have admitted
to any outsider that they could
possibly fail in the end.

Individual skill

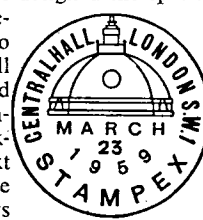
The diver's job, whether he is
working on a small boat that has
sunk in an estuary, or on a
liner in deep water; whether he
is out to retrieve bullion from a
strong-room, or the vessel itself;
whether he works alone in a
diving-suit or articulated suit or
"chamber," or in company with
a handful of other experts in his
own calling—whatever the assign-
ment in hand he brings to it his
own highly individual skill. He
works in circumstances when
mistakes are dangerous. If he
does make a mistake it will prob-
ably be his last. He pits his
strength against the element, and
wins by sheer cunning and
dogged determination.

(These articles are extracted from
Dangerous Trades, a book shortly to
be published by Phoenix House.)

THE Postmaster-General has an-
nounced that as there has
been a fall in the demand for 11d.
stamps no more are to be printed.
About 64 million of the Queen
Elizabeth 11d. stamps have been
sold since 1954, when they were
first issued. Although this may
seem a big number, it is only one-
hundredth of the number of stamps
used in Great Britain every year.

MICHAEL GOAMAN, the London
artist, has designed the special

postmark, pic-
tured here, to
be used on all
mail posted
at the Stam-
pex 1959 Ex-
hibition next
month. The
design shows
the dome of Central Hall, West-
minster, where the exhibition is to
be held.
C. W. HILL



HELP YOURSELF SOLDIER

All soldiers in this country will
eventually be able to help them-
selves at mealtimes. The cafeteria
system, first tried at Woolwich, is
to be introduced to all units of
the British Army.

Under the old system a soldier
took whatever he was given. In
the cafeteria he will be able to
choose what he wants and help
himself to as much as he wants
from dishes kept on hot plates.
And he will have one great
advantage over the civilian. He
will not have to pay!

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PUZZLE PARADE

GILT-EDGED

Can you complete the following names with the aid of the clues?

- Golden San Francisco approach.
Golden Jason's quest.
Golden Drake's ship.
Golden Popular kind of firework.
Golden Garden flower.
Golden Continental express.

WORD SQUARE

CAN you form a word square by using only the letters A and D?

FIND THE SURNAMES

Here are the Christian names of six well-known musicians. Can you add the surnames?

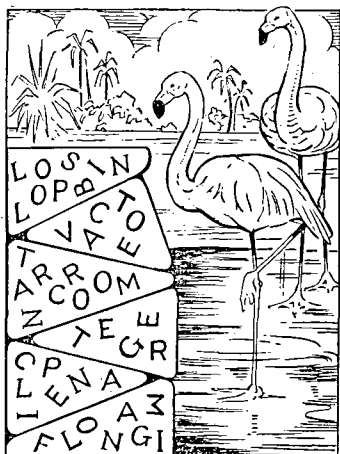
- FRANZ JOSEPH
Edvard
Wolfgang
Johannes
Hector
Wilhelm Richard

ANIMAL MIX-UP

Here is a list of countries and of creatures that are often associated with them. But the creatures appear to be living in the wrong countries. See if you can sort them out.

- MOOSE—Australia.
Springbok—Canada.
Llama—South Africa.
Kiwi—South America.
Kangaroo—New Zealand.

JUMBLED BIRDS



REARRANGE the jumbled words in each panel to find the names of six birds.

SELECT CHOICE

What have the following in common?

RED SOLDIER; American Mother; Prince Albert; Granny Smith; Annie Elizabeth; and an Easter Orange.

PICKING A PICNIC

By rearranging the letters in the words below you can make the names of six items you may take upon a picnic:

MEAT SOOT. CHASE WINDS.
MEAN DOLE. NEYHO. SARGONE. TEACH LOCO.

LITERARY NICKNAMES

Do you know the names of the literary men who were known by the following nicknames?

THE Tinker of Bedford.
Lady of the College.
Sage of Chelsea.
Swan of Denmark.
Tusitala.

FAME IN FIGURES

108961	10118
301125	3917
341350	9058

Complete the addition sums above. When you have done so, change the figures in the answers into letters according to the following code:

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
B C D E H I L M O R

If your answers are correct the figures will indicate the letters in the name of the new Prime Minister of a European country.

A JOB FOR THE CUBS

UNLIKE most young creatures born in the wood last spring, the badger cubs did not leave their parents in autumn to make homes of their own. Instead, the whole family moved into winter quarters in the sett by the quarry.

When Fox Cub saw the young badgers there, collecting dry grass and bracken for the family beds, he called out: "How silly you are to stay. Parents like to have their homes to themselves when their cubs are grown, as you will find out. And what will you do then, when all safe holes will be taken?"

The cubs stopped dragging their bedding bundles and untucked them from between chin and forepaws. "Our parents will not be like that," they said stiffly.

"Just you wait!" cried Fox Cub.

By the time "lambs' tails" were hanging from every hazel the young badgers had forgotten his words. It was then that Mrs. Badger started spring-cleaning.

But the more old bedding and

soil she scratched out the more bad-tempered she became. This time the bedding that the cubs collected was never right. There was either too much, or too little; it was too dry, or too damp.

"Fox Cub was right, and we are not wanted," they said the morning their mother snapped every time they went near. So that night they went to say good-bye.

Funny little whimpers came from her bedroom as they crept towards it. And there, cuddled at her side, lay two new-born cubs.

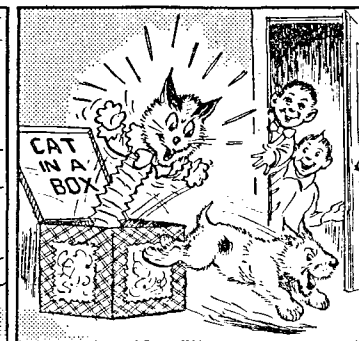
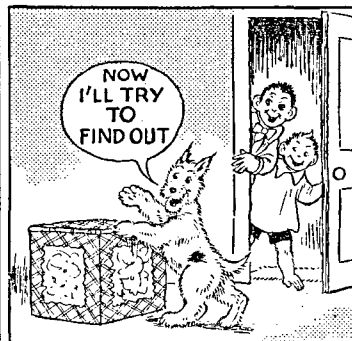
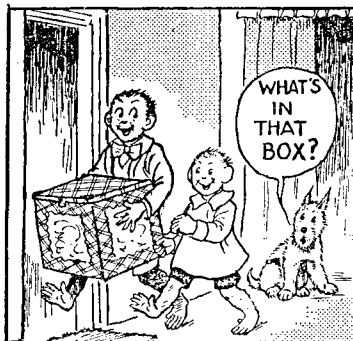
"You certainly don't want us now, Mother," they said sadly. "So good-bye!"

"What?" she cried. "Why, I am looking forward to your helping me play with them and teach them, and take them for their first walks. I can't do without you."

And at once the eyes of the three began shining with pride and happiness.

JANE THORNICROFT

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LUCKY DIP

A TEAM GAME

DIVIDE the blackboard, or a big sheet of paper, into two, and have two teams of players. Members of team A write on the left of the board, and of team B on the right.

Then get someone to start the game by calling out his requirements—for example, five-letter words beginning with D; words of three syllables; words that sound alike but are spelled differently; and so on. The members of each team take it in turn to run to the board and write. The first to do so satisfactorily scores a point for his side. Limit the total number of words or give a time limit.

CHANGE IN THE WEATHER

WHEN pussy turns her back to me

They say it's going to rain;
But though I turn her round about
She turns her back again.
I want it to be fine today,
And so I think I'll creep
And sit the other side of her
While she is fast asleep.

TENNIS IN VENICE

SAID a hearty old fellow of Venice
"How I envy my young brother Dennis.
At seventy-three
He plays rugger, you see,
While all I can manage is tennis."

JUST A FEW WORDS

HERE is an entertaining way to increase your knowledge of words. Each numbered sentence below is followed by three answers or comments you might make; but, in each case, only one is correct and shows that you have understood the meaning of the word in italics. To answer five or six correctly is very good.

Answers are given in column 5

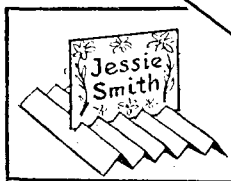
- My case is in *abeyance*.
A—Totally lost.
B—Nothing happening at present.
C—Beset with difficulties.
- Her interest in these things was *desultory*.
A—Rambling and aimless.
B—Dark and attractive.
C—Downcast and lonely.
- He achieved his aim by *cajolery*.
A—A cheerful disposition.
B—Coaxing flattery.
C—Brutal bullying.
- Civilisations sometimes *degenerate*.
A—Create big industries.
B—Increase their population.
C—Grow progressively worse.
- The organisation is *moribund*.
A—Money-grabbing.
B—On the point of dying.
C—Has good intentions.
- Her clothes were *garish*.
A—Rags and tatters.
B—Elegantly stylish.
C—Too bright and showy.

NAME CARDS FOR YOUR PARTY TABLE

HERE is a way of making very attractive name cards to be placed by each plate at your next party. Cut pieces of card to about two inches by three inches, and

then decorate them by painting on a design, or by pasting on pictures from the coloured pages of any magazines. Then write the name of your guest.

FOLD LIKE THIS...
...then CUT HERE



Then get some strong, coloured paper and cut a piece measuring two inches by four or five inches. Fold this concertina fashion so that you have five folds upwards and the two cut edges pointing down. Hold it all together firmly in your left hand, and with the scissors make a snick down the middle two-thirds of the way. Be careful not to cut right across your paper. Now open your concertina gently, and you have a pretty base to hold your card upright.

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES

Gilt-edged Golden Gate; Golden Fleece; Golden Hind; Golden Rain; Golden Rod; Golden Arrow.
Word square.
D A D
A D A
D A D
Find the surnames.
Haydn; Grieg; Mozart; Brahms; Berlioz; Wagner.
Animal mix-up. Moose—Canada; Springbok—South Africa; Llama—South America; Kiwi—New Zealand; Kangaroo—Australia.
Jumbled birds. Spoonbill; avocet; corn-morant; egret; pelican; flamingo.
Select choice. They are all varieties of apple.
Picking a picnic. Tomatoes; sandwiches; lemonade; honey; oranges; chocolate.
Literary nicknames. John Bunyan; John Milton; Thomas Carlyle; Hans Andersen; Robert Louis Stevenson.
Fame in figures. Michel Debre of France.

JUST A FEW WORDS

- B *Abeyance* is a state of temporary inactivity or suspension. (From Anglo-French *abeyance*, from old French *abber*, to gaze expectantly.)
- A *Desultory* means passing abruptly from one activity to another; aimless. (From Latin *desultor*, a circus-rider who jumped from one horse to another.)
- B *Cajolery* is the attempt to flatter one into doing something. (From French *cajoler*, to flatter.)
- C To *degenerate* is to decline from a higher to a lower state of development. (From Latin *degeneratus*, become unlike one's race or kind.)
- B *Moribund* means at the point of death about to cease. (From Latin *moribundus*, dying.)
- C *Garish* means gaudy; showy, too bright or highly-coloured. (Perhaps from Old English *gaure*, to stare.)

First steps to the Rugby League Scholarship for tennis

THE 58th Rugby League Challenge Cup competition opens on Saturday with the 16 First Round ties. The Final will be played at Wembley on May 9.

The two outstanding ties are those at Oldham (where St. Helens are the opposition) and at Wigan, where Leeds are the visitors. Many Rugby League supporters must regret that whatever the result in these ties two attractive teams must go out in the first stage.

Either match would have provided an ideal final for Wembley itself. Wigan are the cup-holders, and though playing at home, they will have a hard game from Leeds, who have often upset Wigan's hopes in the past.

Oldham v. St. Helens is a "re-

peat" of the Lancashire Cup Finals of 1956 and 1958—both won by Oldham, though St. Helens beat their county rivals 22-6 in a League match a few weeks ago.

Wakefield Trinity v. Swinton, and Workington Town v. Featherstone are other outstanding games. Hull and Leigh are among the 12 clubs which have not yet played at Wembley, but both should reach Round Two.

Two amateur clubs have qualified for the Cup Competition proper. They are Kells Centre, a Cumberland club, due to meet Hunslet, and the Astley and Tyldesley Collieries from Leigh (Lancs.), drawn against York. In each case the task ahead seems altogether too strong for the junior sides.

Unbeaten for ten years

THERE can be very few sporting stars who can boast that they were unbeaten for ten years; but until the other day that was the proud claim of Janet Morgan, England's squash champion.

In the final of the Massachusetts championships, she was beaten by Mrs. Sheila Macintosh, a fellow member of the British women's team now in America to defend the Wolfe-Noel Cup.

It was appropriate that Mrs. Macintosh should be the one to break this fine record. Five times the two players have met in the finals of the English championship—and each time Janet has won.

Flat out

WE have often heard of "lightning fast" bowlers, but in South Africa the other day it seemed that one really was in action.

As the bowler turned to begin his run to the wicket, he suddenly felt "as though I had been hit by a sledgehammer and that my hair was being pulled out."

He looked up—and there were the umpire, batsmen, and fielders all flat on their backs. Lightning had struck just as he turned round.

Although three players had to be taken off the field no one was badly hurt.

ONE of Britain's leading tennis players will not be seen on our courts this year, for Reg Bennett, ranked No. 9, has accepted the offer of an athletics scholarship at Lamar College, Texas.

During the next year he will take a business course and represent the college at tennis. In the summer holidays he will take part in American tournaments. Reg received the offer last year and spent a month in America to see how he liked it.

Bennett, who is 21, was unlikely to play in Britain's Davis Cup team this year, but after a season in the highly competitive American tournaments, he should improve a lot.

Alan Mills, Britain's No. 7 and a friend of Bennett, was also offered a scholarship at Lamar, but at the last minute he decided to stay in this country.

Herb Elliott for Cambridge

A SECOND famous sporting star who is to study in another country is Herb Elliott, the world's fastest miler. He is to attend Cambridge University for three years.

But Elliott will not be coming to England for another 18 months. Before he can be accepted at Jesus College to read natural sciences he must first pass the G.C.E. examination in Latin, a subject not usually taught in Australia.

At Aquinas College, Perth, Elliott took eight subjects for what is the Australian equivalent of the G.C.E. He is now attending the University of Western Australia.

There is little chance of him breaking his own world record this year. "I'll have to study a lot," he said the other day. "But I'll go into hard training in time for the 1960 Olympics."

Veteran bowler

WHO is the world's oldest playing cricketer? Well, it is doubtful if any man can dispute the claim of Mr. Clarrie Hogue, of Sydney, who is still turning out regularly at 79! Playing for his local team the other day, Mr. Hogue took four wickets for seven runs.

SPORTING GALLERY

IVOR ALLCHURCH

Talented Welsh international forward Ivor Allchurch joined Newcastle United from Swansea Town early in the present football season. He was born at Swansea and went to the town club soon after leaving school. He is now 28. His younger



brother, Len, plays for Swansea and he, too, is a Welsh international.

Ivor went to school at Plasmarl, a Swansea suburb, and another boy there at the same time was Ray Daniel, who afterwards made his name with Arsenal. Both lads were in the school soccer team and later in the same youth club team. Then they separated for some time and when they came together again it was as Welsh internationals.

Ivor has been playing for Wales since 1951. Injuries worried him a year ago, but he is back to his old form at Newcastle.



In mid-air



This dramatic picture was taken recently at a ski-jumping contest at Semmering, Austria. It caught one of the competitors in the act of losing a ski.

Brother skippers

IN his first year of captaincy Richie Benaud has led Australia to victory against England, thus regaining the Ashes.

In a few years' time we may have to suffer a similar fate at the hands of his younger brother, 14-year-old John Richie, who is himself a promising all-rounder.

John was recently appointed captain of his local club side and in his first game was top scorer with 39 and took five wickets for 57.

England. Beware Benaud!

Wright in wax

LATEST sporting star to have his wax figure in Madame Tussaud's is Billy Wright, the Wolves and England captain. So far, Stanley Matthews is the only other soccer player in the exhibition.

Dark Blues hear what the coach thinks

Probable members of the Oxford Crew for this year's Boat Race listen patiently to their coach's instructions while training at Henley.



CRICKETERS ON TOUR

WITH the end of the Fifth Test the M.C.C. party will be flying to New Zealand to open their short tour on Saturday with a match at Dunedin, against Otago.

Three of the present party will not be going to New Zealand. Jim Laker and Trevor Bailey, who will resume his duties as Essex secretary, will be flying home; and Frank Tyson will stay at Melbourne for a while. Arthur Milton has, of course, already returned to England.

Dunedin is the farthest-south town where first-class cricket is played. The last time an M.C.C. team met Otago, in March 1951, a gale blew away the covers on the Saturday night, and on a rain-damaged pitch, Otago were twice dismissed in totalling 220, giving the M.C.C. an innings victory.

Another cricket tour starts this weekend. Following their successful Test series in India, the West Indies cricketers have moved on to Karachi, where, on Friday, they start the first of three Tests.

This is the first time the teams have met in Pakistan. On opposing sides will be Hanif Moham-

med, scorer of the world's highest innings, and Garfield Sobers, scorer of the highest Test innings, so it could well be a very high-scoring Test match.

News of yet another cricket tour comes to hand, this time from Australia. Next season an Australian team is to tour India and Pakistan, and Sam Loxton, former Victoria and Test all-rounder, has been appointed manager of the team. The tourists will play eight Tests—five against India, and three against Pakistan.

Gold whistle for the whistler

M. GUIGUE, the famous French soccer referee, received the highest honour of his career last summer when he officiated in the World Cup Final, in Stockholm. Now he has received a solid gold whistle to commemorate the occasion—presented to him by the Brazilian Football Association.

M. Guigue is a "whistler" off the football field, too, for he is a French police officer.

SPORTS QUIZ

1. Do Rugby Union internationals receive a cap?
2. Where are the next Winter Olympic Games to be held?
3. Can you name the manager of the Welsh soccer team?
4. What do the initials B.R.M. stand for?
5. How did the boxing "ring" get its name?
6. Who is the men's world figure-skating champion?

1. Yes, but only one, however many times they play. 2. Squaw Valley, California. 3. Mr. Jimmy Murphy, of Manchester United. 4. British Racing Motors. 5. Because spectators used to form a ring round the boxers. 6. David Jenkins, of America.